

Guide to Federal Requirements for Recycle Projects

There are a number of Federal laws, executive orders and government-wide policies that apply to projects and activities receiving Federal financial assistance, regardless of whether the statute authorizing the assistance makes them applicable. Since Federal capitalization grant money was used to seed the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, any money received through the SRF program is subject to certain cross-cutting federal authorities. As an example, the environmental evaluation section, covered in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) guide, stems from environmental authorities, such as, the Endangered Species Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In addition, there are social policy and economic authorities that must be complied with in order to receive funding through the SRF program. These authorities include:

- ◆ Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Pub. L. 94-135
- ◆ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. 88-352
- ◆ Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-500 (Clean Water Act)
- ◆ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93-112 (including Executive Orders 11914 and 11250)
- ◆ Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- ◆ The Executive Order 13166 (E.O. 13166) (Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency)
- ◆ Debarment and Suspension, Executive Order 12549
- ◆ Procurement Prohibitions under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, including Executive Order 11738, Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans
- ◆ Davis Bacon and Related Acts

NONDISCRIMINATION IN THE SRF PROGRAM

The SRF program is bound by the following civil rights laws which prohibit discrimination in providing services or benefits on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or age:

- ◆ Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- ◆ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- ◆ Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972
- ◆ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

These laws were amended in 1988 to make clear that their anti-discrimination powers are intended to apply to the entire operations of a project sponsor, not just the specific program, project, or activity that involves federal assistance.

To document compliance with these provisions, Project Sponsors must submit a *Preaward Compliance Review Report for All Applicants Requesting Federal Financial Assistance* (EPA Form 4700-4) (See Attachment A - Forms). Once reviewed by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), this form will be forwarded to EPA, Region 4, for their approval.

EPA approval of Form 4700-4 is required prior to execution of the SRF loan agreement. This approval process may take one to two months to complete. To provide enough time for EPA approval, DHEC recommends that this form be completed as soon as possible.

PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT AND NONPROCUREMENT PROGRAMS

- ◆ Debarment and Suspension, Executive Order 12549
- ◆ Procurement Prohibitions under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, including Executive Order 11738, Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans,

Under the federal authorities listed above, sponsors and prime contractors must submit a *Certification Regarding, Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility* (DHEC 3590) (See Attachment A – Forms) certifying that they are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participating in a contract using federal funds.

DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Project Sponsors are required to follow the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Provisions set forth under Roman Numeral I, below and certify that all laborers and mechanics employed by prime contractors and subcontractors are paid wages at rates not less than those listed on the prevailing wage rate contained in the contract documents and that all applicable provisions of the Davis-Bacon and Related Act have been met. *This certification will be on DHEC Form 2557 (found on the SRF Document and Forms page, http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/srf_forms.htm) and must accompany all draw requests.* Although EPA and the State remain responsible for ensuring subrecipients' compliance with the wage rate requirements set forth herein, subrecipients shall have the primary responsibility to employ the appropriate wage determinations, conform any needed job classifications, maintain payroll records (see Section 3 below) and for compliance as described in Section I-5.

Project Sponsors **must require the prime contractor** to follow the Davis Bacon provisions and provide all required documentation.

I. Requirements For Subrecipients That Are Governmental Entities:

The following terms and conditions specify how recipients will assist EPA in meeting its Davis-Bacon (DB) responsibilities when DB applies to EPA awards of financial assistance with respect to State recipients and subrecipients that are governmental entities. If a subrecipient has questions regarding when DB applies, obtaining the correct DB wage determinations, DB provisions, or compliance monitoring, it may contact the State recipient. If a State recipient needs guidance, the recipient may contact (Dorothy Rayfield, EPA Region 4 DB contact) for guidance. The recipient or subrecipient may also obtain additional guidance from DOL's web site at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/recovery/>.

1. Applicability of the Davis- Bacon (DB) prevailing wage requirements.

DB prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration, and repair of treatment works carried out in whole or in part with assistance made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund and to any construction project carried out in whole or in part by assistance made available by a drinking water treatment revolving loan fund. If a subrecipient encounters a unique situation at a site that presents uncertainties regarding DB applicability, the subrecipient must discuss the situation with the recipient State before authorizing work on that site.

2. Obtaining Wage Determinations.

(a) Subrecipients shall obtain the wage determination for the locality in which a covered activity subject to DB will take place prior to issuing requests for bids, proposals, quotes or other methods for soliciting contracts (solicitation) for activities subject to DB. These wage determinations shall be incorporated into solicitations and any subsequent contracts. Prime contracts must contain a provision requiring that subcontractors follow the wage determination incorporated into the prime contract.

- (i) **While the solicitation remains open, the subrecipient shall monitor www.wdol.gov weekly** to ensure that the wage determination contained in the solicitation remains current. The subrecipients shall amend the solicitation if DOL issues a modification more than 10 days prior to the closing date (i.e. bid opening) for the solicitation. If DOL modifies or supersedes the applicable wage determination less than 10 days prior to the closing date, the subrecipients may request a finding from the State recipient that there is not a reasonable time to notify interested contractors of the modification of the wage determination. The State recipient will provide a report of its findings to the subrecipient.

(ii) If the subrecipient does not award the contract within 90 days of the closure of the solicitation, any modifications or supersedes DOL makes to the wage determination contained in the solicitation shall be effective unless the State recipient, at the request of the subrecipient, obtains an extension of the 90 day period from DOL pursuant to 29 CFR 1.6(c)(3)(iv). The subrecipient shall monitor <http://www.wdol.gov/> on a weekly basis if it does not award the contract within 90 days of closure of the solicitation to ensure that wage determinations contained in the solicitation remain current.

(b) If the subrecipient carries out activity subject to DB by issuing a task order, work assignment or similar instrument to an existing contractor (ordering instrument) rather than by publishing a solicitation, the subrecipient shall insert the appropriate DOL wage determination from www.wdol.gov into the ordering instrument.

(c) Subrecipients shall review all subcontracts subject to DB entered into by prime contractors to verify that the prime contractor has required its subcontractors to include the applicable wage determinations.

(d) As provided in 29 CFR 1.6(f), DOL may issue a revised wage determination applicable to a subrecipient's contract after the award of a contract or the issuance of an ordering instrument if DOL determines that the subrecipient has failed to incorporate a wage determination or has used a wage determination that clearly does not apply to the contract or ordering instrument. If this occurs, the subrecipient shall either terminate the contract or ordering instrument and issue a revised solicitation or ordering instrument or incorporate DOL's wage determination retroactive to the beginning of the contract or ordering instrument by change order. The subrecipient's contractor must be compensated for any increases in wages resulting from the use of DOL's revised wage determination.

3. Contract and Subcontract Provisions.

See Appendix A – Recycle Funds (from permit guidance) “Davis Bacon and Related Acts: Labor Standards Provisions for Federal and Federally Assisted Contracts: 3. Contract and Subcontract Provisions”.

4. Contract Provision for Contracts in Excess of \$100,000.

See Appendix A – Recycle Funds (from permit guidance) “Davis Bacon and Related Acts: Labor Standards Provisions for Federal and Federally Assisted Contracts: 4. Contract Provision for Contracts in Excess of \$100,000.

5. Compliance Verification

(a) The subrecipient shall **periodically interview** a sufficient number of employees entitled to DB prevailing wages (covered employees) to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. As provided in 29 CFR 5.6(a)(6), all interviews must be conducted in confidence. The subrecipient must use Standard Form 1445 (SF 1445) or equivalent documentation to memorialize the interviews. Copies of the SF 1445 are available from EPA on request.

(b) The subrecipient shall establish and follow an interview schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. At a minimum, the subrecipient should conduct interviews with a representative group of covered employees within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial weekly payroll data and two weeks prior to the estimated completion date for the contract or subcontract. Subrecipients must conduct more frequent interviews if the initial interviews or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. Subrecipients

shall immediately conduct necessary interviews in response to an alleged violation of the prevailing wage requirements. All interviews shall be conducted in confidence.

(c) The subrecipient shall periodically conduct spot checks of a representative sample of weekly payroll data to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. The subrecipient shall establish and follow a spot check schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. At a minimum, if practicable, the subrecipient should spot check payroll data within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial payroll data and two weeks prior to the completion date the contract or subcontract. Subrecipients must conduct more frequent spot checks if the initial spot check or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. In addition, during the examinations the subrecipient shall verify evidence of fringe benefit plans and payments thereunder by contractors and subcontractors who claim credit for fringe benefit contributions.

(d) The subrecipient shall periodically review contractors and subcontractors use of apprentices and trainees to verify registration and certification with respect to apprenticeship and training programs approved by either the U.S Department of Labor or a state, as appropriate, and that contractors and subcontractors are not using disproportionate numbers of, laborers, trainees and apprentices. These reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the schedules for spot checks and interviews described in Item 5(b) and (c) above.

(e) Subrecipients must immediately report potential violations of the DB prevailing wage requirements to the EPA DB contact listed above and to the appropriate DOL Wage and Hour District Office listed at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/contacts/whd/america2.htm>.



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ATTACHMENT A

FORMS

**Preaward Compliance Review Report for
All Applicants and Recipients Requesting EPA Financial Assistance**
Note: Read instructions on other side before completing form.

I. Applicant/Recipient (Name, Address, State, Zip Code).	DUNS No.
II. Is the applicant currently receiving EPA assistance?	
III. List all civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints pending against the applicant/recipient that allege discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. See instructions on reverse side.)	
IV. List all civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints decided against the applicant/recipient within the last year that allege discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and enclose a copy of all decisions. Please describe all corrective action taken. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. See instructions on reverse side.)	
V. List all civil rights compliance reviews of the applicant/recipient conducted by any agency within the last two years and enclose a copy of the review and any decisions, orders, or agreements based on the review. Please describe any corrective action taken. (40 C.F.R. § 7.80(c)(3))	
VI. Is the applicant requesting EPA assistance for new construction? If no, proceed to VII; if yes, answer (a) and/or (b) below. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-left: 40px;"> Yes No </div> a. If the grant is for new construction, will all new facilities or alterations to existing facilities be designed and constructed to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities? If yes, proceed to VII; if no, proceed to VI(b). Yes No b. If the grant is for new construction and the new facilities or alterations to existing facilities will not be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, explain how a regulatory exception (40 C.F.R. § 7.70) applies. Yes No	
VII.* Does the applicant/recipient provide initial and continuing notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its programs or activities? (40 C.F.R. § 5.140 and § 7.95) Yes No a. Do the methods of notice accommodate those with impaired vision or hearing? Yes No b. Is the notice posted in a prominent place in the applicant's offices or facilities or, for education programs and activities, in appropriate periodicals and other written communications? Yes No c. Does the notice identify a designated civil rights coordinator? Yes No	
VIII.* Does the applicant/recipient maintain demographic data on the race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap of the population it serves? (40 C.F.R. § 7.85(a))	
IX.* Does the applicant/recipient have a policy/procedure for providing access to services for persons with limited English proficiency? (40 C.F.R. Part 7, E.O. 13166)	
X.* If the applicant/recipient is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it designated an employee to coordinate its compliance with 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide the name, title, position, mailing address, e-mail address, fax number, and telephone number of the designated coordinator.	
XI* If the applicant/recipient is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it adopted grievance procedures that assure the prompt and fair resolution of complaints that allege a violation of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide a legal citation or Internet address for, or a copy of, the procedures.	
For the Applicant/Recipient	
I certify that the statements I have made on this form and all attachments thereto are true, accurate and complete. I acknowledge that any knowingly false or misleading statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under applicable law. I assure that I will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.	
A. Signature of Authorized Official	B. Title of Authorized Official
C. Date	
For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
I have reviewed the information provided by the applicant/recipient and hereby certify that the applicant/recipient has submitted all preaward compliance information required by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; that based on the information submitted, this application satisfies the preaward provisions of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; and that the applicant has given assurance that it will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.	
A. Signature of Authorized EPA Official	B. Title of Authorized EPA Official
C. Date	

See ** note on reverse side

Instructions for EPA FORM 4700-4 (Rev. 04/2009)

General

Recipients of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must comply with the following statutes and regulations.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act goes on to explain that the statute shall not be construed to authorize action with respect to any employment practice of any employer, employment agency, or labor organization (except where the primary objective of the Federal financial assistance is to provide employment).

Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act provides that no person in the United States shall on the ground of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such programs or activities.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall solely by reason of disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited in all such programs or activities.

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 provides that no person on the basis of age shall be excluded from participation under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is not covered. Age discrimination in employment is prohibited by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act administered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 provides that no person in the United States on the basis of sex shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such education programs or activities. Note: an education program or activity is not limited to only those conducted by a formal institution.

40 C.F.R. Part 5 implements Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

40 C.F.R. Part 7 implements Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Executive Order 13166 (E.O. 13166) entitled; "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" requires Federal agencies work to ensure that recipients of Federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries.

Items

"Applicant" means any entity that files an application or unsolicited proposal or otherwise requests EPA assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25.

"Recipient" means any entity, other than applicant, which will actually receive EPA assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25.

"Civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints" means any lawsuit or administrative complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability pending or decided against the applicant and/or entity which actually benefits from the grant, but excluding employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. For example, if a city is the named applicant but the grant will actually benefit the Department of Sewage, civil rights lawsuits involving both the city and the Department of Sewage should be listed.

"Civil rights compliance review" means any review assessing the applicant's and/or recipient's compliance with laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Submit this form with the original and required copies of applications, requests for extensions, requests for increase of funds, etc. Updates of information are all that are required after the initial application submission.

If any item is not relevant to the project for which assistance is requested, write "NA" for "Not Applicable."

In the event applicant is uncertain about how to answer any questions, EPA program officials should be contacted for clarification.

* Questions VII – XI are for informational use only and will not affect an applicant's grant status. However, applicants should answer all questions on this form. (40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7).

** Note: Signature appears in the Approval Section of the EPA Comprehensive Administrative Review For Grants/Cooperative Agreements & Continuation/Supplemental Awards form.

Approval indicates, in the reviewer's opinion, questions I – VI of Form 4700-4 comply with the preaward administrative requirements for EPA assistance.

"Burden Disclosure Statement"

EPA estimates public reporting burden for the preparation of this form to average 30 minutes per response. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to U.S. EPA, Attn: Collection Strategies Division (MC 2822T), Office of Information Collection, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

The information on this form is required to enable the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine whether applicants and prospective recipients are developing projects, programs and activities on a nondiscriminatory basis as required by the above statutes and regulations.



Project Sponsor: _____
Project Name: _____
Project Number: _____
Period From: _____ **To:** _____

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) SECTION
PROJECT SPONSOR'S DAVIS-BACON CERTIFICATION**

I certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the above referenced project *complies* with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, and that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors during the above referenced period were paid wages at rates not less than those listed on the prevailing wage rate contained in the contract documents and that all applicable provisions of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts have been met.

I understand that a false statement on this certification may be grounds for termination of the loan agreement.

Signature of the Project Sponsor's Representative

Name and Title of Project Sponsor's Representative

DHEC 2557 (11/2010)

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING
PROJECT SPONSOR'S DAVIS-BACON CERTIFICATION
DHEC FORM 2557**

The purpose of the Project Sponsor's Davis-Bacon Certification is to certify the identified SRF project complies with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts for the period identified on the form. This certification form must accompany all draw requests.

The Project Sponsor's representative must complete this form.

Please provide the name of the Project Sponsor, project name, SRF project number and covered period.

Please certify that the identified SRF project complies with Davis Bacon and Related Acts by signing the form and including the printed or typed name and title of the Project Sponsor's representative.

DHEC Review and Filing. The Bureau of Water will use the above referenced form to document compliance with EPA/SRF appropriations law. The form will be kept in the Draw Request file of the project name listed on the form. The Project Sponsor's Davis-Bacon Certification will be retained on file with the Bureau of Water for three years following the final disbursement to the project from the SC Budget and Control Board.



Sponsor: _____

Project Name: _____

SRF Project No.: _____

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) PROGRAM
CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND
OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS**

The prospective participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:

1. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
2. Have not within a three year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
3. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (2) of this certification; and
4. Have not within a three year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

I understand that a false statement on this certification may be grounds for rejection of this proposal or termination of the award. In addition, under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1001, a false statement may result in a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

Name of Prospective Participant (Town, Utility, Contractor, Subcontractor, Supplier etc.)

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Official

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

_____ I am unable to certify to the above statements. Attached is my explanation.

Submit to:

SCDHEC, Water Facilities Permitting Division, SRF Section, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING
CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT
SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS
DHEC FORM 3590**

The purpose of the Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension And Other Responsibility Matters form is to certify that potential participants are not debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549 “Debarment and Suspension.”

- This form is to be filled out by prospective participants in the State Revolving Loan fund program, including towns, public utilities, contractors, and subcontractors.
- Fill in the project sponsor’s name, project name and SRF project number.
- Fill in the potential participants name and name of authorized official for the participant. Sign and date the form to certify that the potential participant is not debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549 “Debarment and Suspension,” or, provide an explanation why the potential participant cannot.
- Where/when to submit:
 - A prospective loan recipient (Sponsor) must return the signed certification, or explanation, with the preliminary engineering report to *SCDHEC, Water Facilities Permitting Division, SRF Section, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201*.
 - A prospective prime contractor must submit a completed certification, or explanation, to the entity awarding the contract (Sponsor).
 - A prospective subcontractor must submit a completed certification, or explanation, to the (prospective) prime contractor for the project.
 - See also, SRF guidance documents.

DHEC Review and Filing: The Bureau of Water will use this form to document compliance with Executive Order 12549. The form will be retained in the SRF project record for three years following the final disbursement to the project from the SC Budget and Control Board.